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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, concerning Egyptian efforts in connection with the Somali crisis.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 12 March 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General

I am happy to convey our appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations and for your own personal efforts to reach a solution to the ongoing conflict in Somalia. These are efforts which meet with the full support and backing of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

I should like, on this occasion, to apprise you of the initiative in which Egypt has been engaged from the onset of the Somali crisis up to the present with a view to restoring stability and peace to Somalia and thereby mitigating the suffering of its people, preserving its unity and maintaining its sovereignty over all of its territory.

Egypt has been concerned to make every effort, whether in its bilateral contacts or in cooperation with other regional and international parties, in order to calm the situation in Somalia and find the appropriate mechanism to deal with it effectively and resolve it peacefully. It is on this that Egypt has also focused in its contacts with the warring Somali parties. Egypt retained its ambassador in Somalia, and it continues to be the only country which has an embassy and an ambassador who is presently performing his functions in Mogadishu.

At Egypt's initiative, an extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States was held on 5 January 1992 in order to discuss the Somali problem. Egypt also took the initiative of requesting the inclusion of a special item on Somalia in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was held at Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 February 1992.

The resolution adopted by the Council of the League together with that adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers provided a good basis for the existing constructive cooperation between the two organizations and the United Nations with a view to bringing an end to the ongoing strife in Somalia.

As you know, I instructed the Ambassador of Egypt in Mogadishu to be present in Addis Ababa during the session of the OAU Council of Ministers. There he met with Mr. James Jonah, and coordination between them was achieved on the basis of our Ambassador providing every assistance to the joint United Nations/LAS/OAU/OIC delegation and by his facilitating the task of the delegation in Mogadishu, given that the Egyptian Embassy is the only one there that is functioning.

President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak undertook to send a note verbale to Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed and to General Mohamed Farah Aidid urging them to cooperate in the mission of the joint delegation on the basis of Egypt's

support for Security Council resolution 733 (1992) and for the agreement reached in New York on 14 February 1992.

We are hopeful that the present efforts will be successful in halting the strife as an important and essential step towards the achievement of overall national reconciliation in Somalia so as to restore stability and prepare the way for the reconstruction and development of the country.

(Signed) Amre MOUSSA
Minister for Foreign Affairs